

# ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Pastor: The Rev'd Eric Wolf ([pew@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:pew@stjohnsudbury.org)) cell: 803-760-0222  
Director of Youth & Family Ministry: Michelle Rose ([mrose@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:mrose@stjohnsudbury.org))  
Office Director: Valerie Ripley ([office@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:office@stjohnsudbury.org))  
Director of Choirs: Benjamin Perry ([choirdir@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:choirdir@stjohnsudbury.org))  
Organist: Bart Dahlstrom ([organist@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:organist@stjohnsudbury.org))

November 18, 2021

## OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be open  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Monday through Thursday  
and will be closed on Fridays.

## PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

**Sunday:** Worship, Sunday School & Confirmation (when in session)

**Monday:** remote, appointments as needed

**Tuesday:** 10:00am - 11:15 pm for staff meeting  
11:15 am - 2:00 pm for office hours

**Wednesday:** 10:00am - 12:00 pm; home visits as needed

**Thursday:** 10:00am - 2:00 pm office hours



Check us out!  
[@stjohnsudbury](https://www.instagram.com/stjohnsudbury)



Visit our YouTube Channel  
All of our worship videos  
are available to watch at  
our YouTube channel.

Find us at:  
St John Lutheran Sudbury.

## Fall Fling



*Outside cleanup of the church  
is scheduled for*

*Saturday, December 4th*

*9:00 am to noon.*



*Please bring your rakes and blowers if you have them.  
There are some tools available at the church.*

St. John Lutheran Church  
16 Great Rd.  
Sudbury, Ma 01776  
978-443-8350  
[www.stjohnsudburyma.org](http://www.stjohnsudburyma.org)

## ST. JOHN SENIORS ON THE GO BOOK CLUB FOR NOV. 23rd AND 30th

Please join us!!! ZOOM book club meetings will be on Tues, Nov. 23rd and 30th, at 11:00 AM for a get together to discuss prior books read and new books to read.

On December 21st, we will discuss *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner.

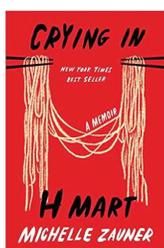
Any questions, contact Jan Nielsen at jrnielsen@charter.net or 978-549-3044.

Next books:

Dec. 21, 2021, *The Yellow Bird Sings* by Jennifer Rosner

Jan. 18, 2022, *Crying in H Mart* by Michelle Zauner

Feb. 15, 2022, *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes



## PRAYING TOWNS

submitted by Dianne Hultstrom

The General Court of Massachusetts passed an Act for the Propagation of the Gospel amongst the Indians in 1646. Reverend John Eliot preached his first sermon to Native Americans in their own language in the wigwam of Waban on October 28, 1646. Waban was the first convert of his tribe in Nonantum (near Newton, Massachusetts).

Old Praying Indian Towns in Massachusetts were:

Wamesit (Chelmsford),  
Nashoba (Littleton),  
Okkokonimesit (Marlborough),  
Hassannamesit (Grafton),  
Makunkokoag (Hopkinton),  
Natick (Natick),  
and Punkapog or Pakomit (Stoughton).

(Note the strategic placement of praying towns. They were used as an outlying wall of defense for the colony in 1675 during King Philip's War.) The success of praying towns was noticed in England and in 1649, the Long Parliament passed an Ordination forming "A Corporation for the Promoting and Propagating the Gospel of Jesus Christ in New England". Funds of approximately 12,000 pounds were raised for investment in the goal and to be used in the Colonies of Massachusetts and New York. Reverend Eliot also received funds to start schools for teaching the Native Americans.

# PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS:

Debbie Reed  
Charles Miller  
Helen Williams  
Rhonda Tibbetts  
Pat Quinn  
Wendy  
Marilyn Kunelius  
Judy  
Joan Niemi  
Joan LeDuc

Brian Young  
Norma Duane  
Angelika Zollfrank  
Alexis Marsh  
Bill Davis  
Marilyn Hartke  
Ann Kirk  
Carolyn Sweeney  
Liz Arthofer  
Hansgate Family (bereavement)

Christopher Miller  
John Duane  
Liz Tolbert  
Ruth Avery  
Janice Potter  
Jan Nielsen  
Liz Radoski  
Claudine  
Meg Davis  
Scully Family (bereavement)



## FAMILY WORSHIP PARTICIPATION: A NEW TWIST ON AN ANCIENT PRACTICE

The Worship & Music Committee has been having a conversation about how to recruit worship assistants lately. One of the ideas we've discussed is to allow very young children to serve in this capacity with their parents' help. Imagine Mom and child acolyting, or the whole family serving in the role of crucifer and carrying the processional cross. This might be a little new for St. John, but it's not a new idea to the Church.

Over the last century or so, many congregations have grown used to seeing children serving as acolytes. Teenagers have served as crucifers, torch bearers, and Bible bearers in processions during worship. Adults serve as communion assistants and as readers.

I remember that it felt like a wonderful rite of passage when I was a child to be able to acolyte for the first time, and being part of worship processions and taking on other leadership roles in worship became a great joy as I grew older. I also remember there being a moment when I felt like I'd "aged out" of serving in this way. I was a junior in high school, and realized I was the oldest person by far who still served as an acolyte. "I'm way too old to do this kid stuff!" is what I told my pastor when he asked why I didn't acolyte anymore but was still willing to be a crucifer.

In my first call at St. John's, in Lexington, SC, there was a man named Edwin who often served as acolyte when the child scheduled couldn't be there. Edwin is one of those people who doesn't say much of anything, but he's always right there when something needs doing. To this day, he's one of the most faithful people I've ever met, and we joked that at north of 65 he was the oldest acolyte ever. It turns out that isn't true though.

I'm remembering now that Addison, Edwin's granddaughter, became a regular communion assistant at the age of four or five. During our early service, our practice was to ask for volunteers to serve the wine at the time of communion because scheduling people for that service was challenging. Addison stepped up to me when I asked for a volunteer to carry the cup, and I asked her if she could say, "The blood of Christ is shed for you", and she repeated it to me. Mom nodded, so Addison carried the chalice to each person, saying with the earnest sincerity almost unique to a child, "The blood of Christ is shed for *you*". Children may not comprehend the *mysteries* cognitively, but I'm convinced they intuitively understand *mystery* better than almost any adult.

It may also be true that compared to me, who so far has knocked over the chalice three times while celebrating communion during my years as a pastor, she spilled *much* less than me!

In truth, the word acolyte means simply, "a person assisting the celebrant in a religious service". So *acolyte* is really just a fancy word for *Worship Assistant* or *Assisting Minister*! Throughout the history of the Church — and throughout the history of this congregation — we've always had assisting ministers or worship assistants of all ages, and not only that, just this past week I got a kick out of seeing the joy and amusement on Dennis Hultstrom's face as he served as acolyte and lit the candles!

So what would it look like for a family to serve as worship assistants?

Our family belonged to Reformation Lutheran in Columbia, SC while I was serving the synod. One of the most amazing things about worship there was how involved families were in worship. Entire families would process with the cross. A parent and child may share reading duties. A toddler was an acolyte with Dad helping to light the candles. There was a brother and sister who served as acolytes together.

There was something that felt *living* when I saw that week after week. It always drew my attention to the lighting of the candles, the procession of the cross, the young hands that held the chalice, the old hands that lit candles. This also serves another vital purpose in the life of our congregation.

*continued*

Children often decide what's worth doing or not worth doing by whether adults do it too. If we're singing silly songs and the adults are singing with them, they gain energy as they sing! If they see the adults off in a corner adulting, they see that too, and decide eventually that this must not be something worth doing. The only reason I felt like I'd outgrown acolyting is that I was the oldest person who did it. I still enjoyed the feeling of participation and service, I just felt like I was doing kid stuff, and felt foolish doing it.

Maybe you don't like doing things by yourself but you'd enjoy it if a friend joined you in lighting candles or processing with the cross. The beauty of this is that it makes worship something we do together, and makes it more accessible for everyone who wants to be a part of it in the process.

Over the next few weeks, Valerie and Michelle will be making our schedule for worship assistants. They'll be asking if you'd consider serving in different ways, and you may have the opportunity to do something that brings you youthful joy that you haven't done in a long time, or perhaps ever! Even you don't receive an email or phone call, please consider signing your family up to serve during worship. I promise you — it will be fun and bring you a new way to appreciate the gift of God's grace and love we share together during every service.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Eric



## PASTOR'S CLASSES

Pastor Eric offers Pastor's classes over Zoom in 6-12 week segments to encourage grownups of all ages to explore their faith. Classes meet on Monday evenings at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

Pastor Eric's six week Monday evening class called *The Way: Who Are We Now?* continues on Monday, November 8 at 7:30pm on the St. John ZOOM account.

You are welcome to attend, even if you missed some sessions or are unable to make all of the classes.

During this class we will explore the ways our lives have changed, the way the world around us has changed, and how that affects the way we hear our baptismal call to follow Jesus.

Week 4: *The Way of Hope: Suffering, Endurance, Character, & Hope*

Week 5: *The Way of Surrender: Giving Up and Picking Up*

Week 6: *The Way We Will Be: Looking to a Hopeful Future*

## CHILDREN'S LENDING LIBRARY UPDATE

Thanks to donations from Maddy Rose, Dianne Hultstrom and Mildred Cheung, we've added the following books to the Lending Library:

All of Us by Katheryn Erskine; illustrated by Alexandra Boiger  
The Book of Hugs by Tim Harris; illustrated by Charlie Astrella  
Fry Bread: a Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard;  
illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal  
Paper Son by Julie Leung; illustrated by Chris Sasaki

***Fry Bread will be featured in an upcoming Children's Sermon!***

Take some time to check out these new additions!

Below is an updated bibliography of the books in the Lending Library.

All of Us by Katheryn Erskine; illustrated by Alexandra Boiger  
Antiracist Baby by Ibram X. Kendi; illustrated by Ashley Lukashevsky  
Black is a Rainbow Color by Angela Joy; illustrated by Ekua Holmes  
The Book of Hugs by Tim Harris; illustrated by Charlie Astrella  
Call Me Max by Kyle Lukoff; illustrated by Luciano Lozano  
Enough! 20 Protesters who Changed American by Emily Easton; illustrated by Ziyue Chen  
Eyes that Kiss in the Corners by Joanna Ho; illustrated by Dung Ho  
Fry Bread: a Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard; illustrated by Juana Martinez-Neal  
Good to be Yourself-A Book About Gender Identity by Theresa Thorn; illustrated by Noah Grigni  
The Great Migration written & illustrated by Jacob Lawrence  
The Name Jar written & illustrated by Yangsook Choi  
The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson; illustrated by Rafael Lopez  
Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson  
Paper Son by Julie Leung; illustrated by Chris Sasaki  
Woke: A Young Poet's Guide to Justice by Elizabeth Acevedo, Mahogany L. Browne & Olivia Gatwood;  
illustrated by Theodore Taylor III  
When Aidan Became a Brother by Kyle Lukoff; illustrated by Kaylani Juanita



If you would like to donate a book to the lending library, please contact Mildred Cheung (mildred.cheung@gmail.com or Michelle Rose (mrose@stjohnsudbury.org) to inquire about books on the wish list.

## Prayer for Justice

**Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it:  
a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor;  
a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them;  
a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect;  
a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.  
Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**- Author Unknown**

## THANK YOU TO THRIVENT!

We were thrilled to present our Sunday school students with special piggybanks from Thrivent on November 7th. We carried the theme of our Children's Message that day about the Poor Widow who gave her gift purely out of love into our Sunday school lesson about David being chosen as king because God could see David's loving heart. We talked about our treasures of talents, time, and resources and how we can all share our gifts with loving hearts. The highlight of our time together was a treasure hunt, which led us to the Thrivent piggy banks. The banks have three sections: Save, Spend, and Share to encourage kids to spread their treasure so they have money for the future, money to share with St John through offering or other charitable organizations like God's Global Barnyard, and money to spend on something kids would like to buy now. Thank you to Thrivent for the cool piggy banks! And to Stewardship and Valerie Ripley for ensuring that we got them!



## BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB HOLIDAY GIFT CARD COLLECTION



Assabet Valley Boys and Girls Club is up and running, and once again, St. John is offering Christmas support through gift cards. Because of the devastating economic effect of the pandemic on many families attending AVBGC, the director asked that we donate only essentials this year: food, gas and clothing. So, if supporting these local families is something you would like to make a part of your Christmas giving, please

consider Maynard area supermarkets, gas stations and places that sell clothing such as Target or Walmart.

The cards will be collected until December 17th. Please leave in the office in the Cards for Kids box, or give to Nancy Haugsjaa or any member of Outreach (Larry Kivimaki, John Pearson, Johanna Ellis, Christine Barilone). If you wish to make a donation of cash, we will happily see to buying the cards. Thanks so much for your generosity!

## THE MITTEN TREE IS IN THE LOUNGE!

Handmade as well as purchased gloves, mittens, hats and scarves are welcome. We are anticipating a high need this year! These will be given to local organizations where the need is determined to be the greatest.

Thank you for your help!



## CONCORD PRISON OUTREACH (CPO) HOLIDAY GIFT PROJECT



Over many years St John members have participated generously and actively in the CPO holiday program at the two Concord prisons. Unfortunately, the project has changed in the past two years because of Covid-19. This year CPO still plans to distribute a small gift of personal care products for each of 2,300 inmate.

An even larger program includes Concord as well as the men's facility in Shirley and the women's facility in Framingham. They are not accepting donated items at this time.

## THE PUPPETS RETURN ON DECEMBER 5TH!

Make sure you join us in person or for the livestream when the puppets return to worship on December 5th! We will perform “If Pigs Could Fly”, written and recorded by Jeff Fuhrer, to kick off our annual collection for God’s Global Barnyard. Don’t miss it!



## LEGO NIGHT

Families gathered to enjoy Lego, pizza, and togetherness on Friday, November 12th. We are grateful to our resident Lego Expert Extraordinaire, Mike Ripley, for bringing 3 crates of Lego and Duplo for us to play with—as well as some of his own original Lego creations to spark our imaginations. We created windmills and churches, oxen and giraffes, and turned the lounge into a highway for our motorcycles and trucks. We look forward to building with Lego together again in the future!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCOOP!

After learning about David (see the Thrivent article), last week we learned about David’s son Solomon who built a home on earth for God. We enjoyed building our own temples with blocks and toured our own church to think carefully about the areas of the church and why it is designed in the way that it is.

This week we will participate in our traditional Spread the Bread event, but updated for COVID. All breads will be baked at home, but Sunday school kids will join together to wrap the breads in festive paper and decorate cards to attach to the loaves. Our breads will be distributed by the Marlboro Community Cupboard. Thanks to all of our bakers!

Looking ahead, the Christmas Gospel is planned for December 19th. We are so excited to be able to present the Christmas Gospel in person again! Please plan to join us!

## CONFIRMATION CONNECTION

During our study of Judges, confirmation students shared ideas about what makes—and does not make—a good leader. We examined the 12 tribes of Israel and the peoples’ wishes for earthly leaders—and why some of the Judges worked out better than others. Thanks to the students’ interests we also were able to examine how peoples’ needs and their leaders have affected relations between different countries throughout history. And we realized once again why learning from history can be so important. Humankind will allow history to repeat itself—unless we make a concerted effort to stop it.

Last week we looked to the book of Ruth to study one of the few women in the Bible. We discussed not just the importance of relationships, but also the strength of Ruth who willingly chose to continue her path knowing she would be viewed as different, and the strength of Boaz who accepted and married this outsider even though his neighbors were probably not very supportive of his decision. We played a game that allowed us to find commonalities between seemingly unrelated objects. We talked about feeling like outsiders and how we were able to change that feeling and identified how communities view outsiders and what we can do to foster acceptance of people who seem different than us.

This Sunday—Kings!

# UPCOMING AT ST. JOHN

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| November 21st | -9:30 am - Worship at St. John (In-person and Streaming)<br>-10:50 am - Sunday School at St. John (In-person)<br>-6:30 pm - Confirmation (In-person) |
| November 22nd | -10:00 am - Seniorcise<br>-7:30 pm - Who Are We Now? (Pastor Eric's Class)   |
| November 23rd | -11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group   |
| November 24th | -8:00 pm - Newish Parents Meeting  |
| November 25th | - Happy Thanksgiving   |
| November 26th | -7:30 pm - Knitting/Sewing Group   |
| November 28th | -9:30 am - Worship at St. John (In-person and Streaming)   |
| November 29th | -10:00 am - Seniorcise<br>-7:30 pm - Who Are We Now? (Pastor Eric's Class)   |
| November 30th | -11:00 am - Seniors on the Go Book Group   |
| December 1st  | -10:00 am - Seniorcise   |
| December 2nd  | -10:30 am - Bible Study w/ Ippolit Matjucha<br>-6:00 pm - Bell Choir Practice<br>-7:00 pm - Choir Practice   |
| December 4th  | -7:30 pm - Knitting/Sewing Group   |
| December 5th  | -9:30 am - Worship at St. John<br>-10:50 am - Family Sunday School at St. John<br>-6:30 pm - Confirmation  |

Login information  
<https://zoom.us/j/9784438350>  
Meeting ID: 978 443 8350  
(or call in 1-312-626-6799)



## CALLING ALL BAKERS!!!

Sunday, November 21st, our Sunday School program is resurrecting our **SPREAD THE BREAD** tradition. However, it's Spread the Bread with COVID restrictions, so we will not be baking any bread here at the church.

That's where YOU come in! Please bake loaves of bread ahead of time, wrap them in wax paper, tin foil, or a plastic bag, and bring them to church on Sunday, November 21st. The Sunday school kids will wrap them with paper and hand-decorated cards for local food pantries to distribute. We usually use the Pillsbury quick breads, so using those is absolutely acceptable—as is making homemade bread.



If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Rose at [mrose@stjohnsudbury.org](mailto:mrose@stjohnsudbury.org) or 508-320-7245.

## MAKE CHRISTMAS DINNER SPECIAL FOR MAYNARD FAMILIES

This year we will once again be working with the Maynard Food Pantry to provide Christmas dinners for Maynard families. They are hoping that St John can provide the items for 8 meals. The items that we collect are very specific: a bag of apples, a bag of oranges, a fresh whole squash, a bag of potatoes, a bag of full-size (not baby) carrots, a bag of sweet potatoes, 3 cans of vegetables, a bottle of fruit juice, a package of rolls, a box of stuffing, a frozen turkey or ham, and some baked goods for dessert. We will have a sign up available in December, but we wanted you know so that you may consider this opportunity as you think about your holiday giving.